

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 4-32, 34 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by fax from Mr. Ido Tuchman on January 30, 2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amend the following claims 1, 12, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31.

Claim1. A software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system comprising:

a computer processor;

a software controller at a user device for controlling use of a software product at the user device wherein the software controller is adapted for:

- allowing said use of the software product at the user device [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token representing the licence for the software product and supplied to the software controller by a licence management server, the licence management server communicating with the software controller via a data communications network;

Art Unit: 2436

- enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller, and
- supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another said software controller.

Claim 12. A software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system comprising:

a computer processor;

a software controller at a user device for controlling use of a software product at the user device; and

a licence management server for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network; wherein the software controller is adapted for

- allowing said use of the software product [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the software controller by the licence management server,
 - receiving an exchange token associated with said licence, and
 - supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said exchange token is received by the software controller in the absence of a current data token;
- and wherein the licence management server is adapted for
- storing the use period for each data token supplied to the software controller under the licence, and
 - supplying via the network to the software controller a new data token in exchange for a current data token, or said exchange token, received from the software controller, the new data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller.

Claim 18. A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein:

a said data token represents a licence to use a plurality of software products; and the software controller is adapted for storing product data, indicative of said plurality of software products, at a back-up storage location, and allowing use of each of the

Art Unit: 2436

software products [substantially] only during the use period associated with the current data token supplied by the licence management server.

Claim 21. A computer processor including a software controller for use in a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system having a licence management server for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network, wherein the software controller comprises control logic for controlling use of a software product at a user device, the control logic being adapted for:

- allowing said use of the software product [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the software controller by the licence management server;
- enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller; and
- supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another said software controller;

wherein said use of the software product is not allowed if the current data token is an exchange token.

Claim 23. A computer processor including a software controller for use in a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system having a licence management server for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network, wherein the software controller comprises control logic for controlling use of a software product at a user device, the control logic being adapted for:

- allowing said use of the software product [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the software controller by the licence management server;
- receiving an exchange token associated with said licence;
- and
- supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said exchange token is received by the software controller in the absence of a current data token; and wherein the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software

Art Unit: 2436

controller.

Claim 24. A licence management server for use with a software controller as claimed in claim 23 in a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the licence management server comprising control logic adapted for:

communicating with the software controller via a data communications network;

storing the use period for each data token supplied to the software controller under the licence; and

supplying via the network to the software controller a new data token in exchange for a current data token, or said exchange token, received from the software controller, the new data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence; and wherein the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller.

Claim 25. A computer program product stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a computer program for controlling use of a software product at a user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data token, the user device being connectable to a licence management server via a data communications network, the computer program comprising program code means adapted to:

allow use of the software product at the user device [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server;

enable user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another [user device] said software controller; and

supply one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another user device;

wherein said use of the software product is not allowed if the current data token is an exchange token.

Claim 26. A computer program product stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a computer program for use in a licence management server of a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented

Art Unit: 2436

by a data token, the system including a software controller as claimed in claim 21 and the licence management server being adapted for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network, wherein the computer program comprises program code means adapted to cause the licence management server to:

supply via the network to the software controller a new data token, to replace the current data token and having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token, received by the licence management server from the software controller; and detect if a said token received from the software controller for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence management server; and wherein the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller.

Claim 27. A computer program product stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a computer program for controlling use of a software product at a user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data token, the user device being connectable to a licence management server via a data communications network, the computer program comprising program code means adapted to:
allow use of the software product at the user device [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server;
receive an exchange token associated with said licence;
and
supply one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said exchange token is received by the user device in the absence of a current data token; and wherein the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller.

Claim 28. A computer program product stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a computer program for use in a licence management server of a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system including a software controller as claimed in claim 23 and the licence management server being adapted for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network, wherein the computer program comprises program code means adapted to cause the licence management server to:

Art Unit: 2436

store the use period for each data token supplied to the software controller under the licence; and
supply via the network to the software controller a new data token in exchange for a current data token, or said exchange token, received by the licence management server from the software controller, the new data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence; and wherein the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller.

Claim 29. A method for controlling use of a software product at a user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data token, the user device being connectable to a licence management server via a data communications network, wherein the method comprises, at the user device:
allowing use of the software product [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server;
enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another [user device] said software controller; and
supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another user device;
wherein said use of the software product is not allowed if the current data token is an exchange token.

Claim 31. A method for controlling use of a software product at a user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data token, the user device being connectable to a licence management server via a data communications network, wherein the method comprises, at the user device:
allowing by a computer processor use of the software product [substantially] only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server; and
supplying one of the current data token and an exchange token, associated with said licence, via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said exchange token is received by the user device in the absence of a current data token; and wherein the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record do not teach or suggest allowing said use of the software product at the user device only during a use period associated with a current data token representing the licence for the software product and supplied to the software controller by a licence management server, the licence management server communicating with the software controller via a data communications network; enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller, and supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another said software controller in combination and relationship with the rest of claim as being claimed in claims 1, 12, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31.

Art Unit: 2436

Therefore, claims 4-11, 34, 13-20, 22, 26, 24, 28, 30, 32 are allowable as being dependent upon independent claims 1, 12, 21, 23, 29, 31.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GHAZAL SHEHNI whose telephone number is (571)270-7479. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2436

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GHAZAL SHEHNI/
Examiner, Art Unit 2436

/Nasser Moazzami/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2436